

The Middletown Transcript.

MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 2, 1875.

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The Middletown Transcript.

EDWARD REYNOLDS, Editor.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 2, 1875.

THE SEVENTH VOLUME OF THE TRANSCRIPT closed with our last issue and the eighth begins with this. During the past year its columns have been lengthened and one added to each page. It is now a thirty-two column paper and we are enabled to give our readers a much larger amount of reading matter than we could a year ago. It is our aim to make the TRANSCRIPT as interesting to every class of our readers as possible. We seek to keep as good a record as we can of all events of interest and importance that transpire from day to day in our midst, and all over the State. Profiting by experience we hope to be able to make our paper better in the future than it has been in the past.

DEATH OF GERIT SMITH.—This once notorious abolitionist and anti-slavery agitator died at the residence of Gen. John Cochran, the husband of his niece, in New York, on Monday, in the 78th year of his age. The name of Gerit Smith has long been familiar to the American people, as one of the original abolitionists, who in their violent dislike to the institution of slavery were totally unscrupulous of the means used for its overthrow. Hence, in complete defiance of the provisions of the constitution and of the laws of the land, he rendered aid to fugitive slaves. Smith used his means in aiding and inducing the escape of runaway slaves, and his residence was their frequent resort. When John Brown made his insane and murderous attempt to create a slave insurrection in Virginia, he used weapons bought with money furnished by Gerit Smith, and other such patriots (and philanthropists) the failure of Brown's attempt and his consequent fate, or the fear that a similar well deserved punishment awaited him for his part in this nefarious scheme, so pressed upon his spirit as to seriously affect his mind and cause a temporary insanity. Upon him, along with Owen Lovejoy, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Thaddeus Stevens, Wendell Phillips, Henry Ward Beecher, and the whole host of abolition agitators, rests, in a great measure, the responsibility of the late civil war between the States.

Low wages.—It is better for men to work for low wages than to be unemployed and receive no means of support whatever. At a time like the present any legitimate occupation that may offer, which will yield food and clothing, should be engaged in, without the least hesitancy. The man who can earn a dollar a day should not scruple to do so. We know that \$6 a week are not equal to \$15 or \$18, but they are decidedly better than nothing. The man who prefers idleness to work at reduced compensation is unworthy of sympathy, much less charity, no matter how deplorable his condition. The right way is to make the best of circumstances during the winter, and when Spring comes something better may offer. The dollar that is earned is just as large as the one gotten in any other way, and will go just as far as any other dollar in keeping the wolf from the door. The mechanics who refused to work at Edgemoor for \$1.25 per day may realize this fact before Spring, and the ditchers who refused to work for 75 cents and beard for a farmer in Christians Hundred, need not ask any neighbor for charity, unless prostrated by sickness.

It may be said that this rate of wages is too low in truth, we admit such to be a fact; but there are hundreds of business men who are making nothing, everything moves sluggishly, and the indications for improvement are not at all encouraging. Three months must pass away before we can look for any great change for the better in trade, and in the meantime men must live as best they can. And, besides, if we are to have a resumption of specie payment there will be a general decline of prices and a reduction of wages will necessarily follow, or business will remain dull and unrevivacious.—*Republican*.

James Webb, a prominent citizen of Baltimore, died Monday, after a few days' illness, aged 50 years. He had held various State and municipal offices, and at the time of his death was President of the Oldtown Bank and a Director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

Mr. P. T. Barnum was the recipient, on Christmas day, of a handsome span of horses, valued at \$2,500. The donors being Messrs W. C. Comp, Dan Castello and S. H. Hurd, his managers.

So numerous are the additions to the library of Harvard College that new shelves to accommodate 2000 volumes are in course of construction.

Among winter fashions it is noted that Russian shawls are much worn by ladies whose husbands have recently become bankrupt.

Local and State Affairs.

Minor Topics.

Newark sports had a fox chase on Christmas day.

The Commercial grew sentimental over toy-doll babies and such like—on Monday.

The new Millington light-house is completed, and is said to be a fine building.

Notice of intended applications to the Legislature for divorce are being published in the various State papers.

That deer chase did not take place, at New Castle, on Christmas day. The S. P. C. A. interfered and bought the deer.

The Breakwater Light tells a story of a young man for that neighborhood who brought down 26 black ducks at one shot.

Two or three cases of scarlet fever, among children, in this town and neighborhood have been reported this week.

Ex-Sheriff James Armstrong & Son, have made an assignment of their effects to Wm. Reynolds, for the benefit of their creditors.

The Wilmington papers record some eight or nine cases of petty larceny and burglary that took place in that city on Saturday last.

Mr. A. W. Russell, widow of Rev. Andrew K. Russell, died at her residence, in Newark, last Sunday.

A donation party was given by the congregation, to Rev. J. Rogers, pastor of Glasgow Presbyterian Church, last Monday evening.

Ex-warden Ridings, of New Castle jail, who was bound and gagged by the bank burglars when they escaped, has gone to Europe.

Rev. J. A. Stone, of the Newark P. E. Church, was taken with a congestive chill in his pulpit on Christmas day, and could not preach.

Townsend & Co., of Wilmington, have sold the farm of Philip R. Clark, near Hare's corner, to Hiram Westbrook, of New Jersey, for \$136 per acre.

The employees of the W. & W. R. R., presented the President of the road, James Bradford, Esq., with a handsome gold headed ebony cane on Christmas day.

Several of the Peninsula papers speak in glowing terms of the Washington Hotel, Wilmington, of which Mr. H. Horner, formerly of Delaware City, is proprietor.

Mr. E. O. Ordway gave the poor people of Wilmington, a big dinner on Christmas day, and on Saturday distributed 500 loaves of bread, the remnants of the feast, among them.

C. B. Ellison, Esq., forgot to hitch his horse, when at the donation party to Mr. Rogers, last Monday night, and they went home without him.

Rev. J. L. McKim was elected cashier of the Farmers' Bank, at Georgetown, last week, vice Mr. Anderson resigned, but declined the position. He has been teller for some years.

While some boys were amusing themselves shooting at a target, in Newark, on Christmas day, one of them, John Benishaw, had his hand badly hurt by the bursting of his gun.

Wm. Silver, the notorious ex-justice of the peace, of Wilmington, has opened a law office in Philadelphia, but unfortunately he will still reside in Brandywine Hundred.

A man named Frank Smith, of Georgetown, undertook to extinguish a coal oil lamp, last night, by blowing down the chimney. He succeeded and came away extinguishing himself and the house too, at the same time.

A card.

For many articles, ornamental, useful and substantial, which have reached the parsonage this Christmas week, our thanks are hereby returned to our known and unknown friends.

L. C. MAYNARD, Middletown, Jan. 1, '75. B. H. MAYNARD.

Withdrawn for Repairs.

After Monday next the steamer *May* of the Baltimore, Delaware City & Philadelphia line, will be withdrawn and placed in winter quarters for repairs. The steamer *Perry*, however, will continue to run all winter unless prevented by the close of navigation in the river, by freezing.

List of Letters.

Remain in the Post Office, at Middletown, Del., (undelivered) for the week ending Jan. 2, 1875: Mr. H. Dale, Jane Debuty, Mrs. Hannah Ann Gesser, Mr. Thomas Hagens, Miss L. Wilson. Persons calling for the above will please say that they are advertised.

D. L. DUNNIN, P. M.

Selection of Officers.

A regular stated meeting of Good Samaritan Lodge, No. 9, I. O. O. F. of this town Thursday evening, December 31st, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: N. G., Cyrus Tatten; V. G., George W. Wilson; R. S., Wm. B. Hollis; P. S., J. M. Foster; T. S., R. H. Foster.

Sudden Death of a Young Lady.

Miss Fannie S. daughter of Joseph Ellison, of Delaware City, died very suddenly, last Saturday week. She was at school on Long Island, N. Y., and retired in apparently excellent health on Friday evening expecting to go home the next day to spend the Christmas vacation, but when morning came she was found in an unconscious state and dying. Her sudden death was a sad affliction to her parents.

Kent County R. R.

They seem to have a hard time, down in Kent, to find out what is to be done with their rail road. Numerous rumors have been about for several weeks past in regard to it, the latest of which—thus far heard—is the following from the Kent News of last week: Trains have been running on the Kent Co. Rail Road since Tuesday last, under the direction of Mr. Hood, but we understand that in a few days it will pass into the hands of Mr. Gerker, of Philadelphia, and be run in the interest of the bondholders.

Burglary at Mt. Pleasant.

On Monday night some scoundrels broke into the store of Mrs. Eliza Drexler, at Mt. Pleasant, and stole therefrom, four fine shirts, four pairs of pants, some caps, stockings, \$10 in money and other articles. They first attempted to get into the store by digging under the foundation into the cellar, from whence they endeavored to force their way into the room above, but failing in this, they went around to the front and broke open one of the windows.

H. V.

Following the example of many of our Pen-

insula and other exchanges, we issue but a half sheet this week. This we have done for the double purpose of allowing our employees an opportunity to visit their homes and friends, and to get a chance to have our office cleaned up and put in order for the winter's work. This has been accomplished; and we are now ready to receive orders for anything in our line of business, and to fill them quickly and satisfactorily. In as much as we give our readers the usual amount of inside reading, we trust they will excuse the want of outside matter.

Profanity in the Streets.

Ladies complain, and justly, of the terrible profanity and disgusting language of the negroes on the streets. The gathering of these creatures in crowds upon the street corners has always been a nuisance, but of late it has become worse than it has ever been before. On every clear day, especially during the winter season when they are not at work, a crowd of them collect upon the corner of Main and Broad streets, where they amuse themselves in dancing, loud yelling, boxing, kicking and other such many recreations. At night it is worse still. The crowd is increased until they literally block up the sidewalk, and their loud talking, coarse profanity and disgusting language is a source of annoyance to everybody passing, or who lives within sound of their voices. It is a shame that such doings are permitted in a respectable town. We know that the town authorities have frequently endeavored to break it up, but without avail. We earnestly know whether we have a town officer or not, but if there is such an individual, he might, probably do something to abate at least some of this justly complained of nuisance. These are some of the fruits of that absurd folly—negro citizenship.

Christmas in Middletown.

The celebration of Christmas differed in nothing materially from that of former years. There was the same amount of church services—at the Episcopal and Methodist Churches—as in other years; the merchants closed their stores in front of the confectionery and variety stores resented the customary harvest; the boys kept up a constant din by firing guns, pistols, little cannons, fire crackers, &c., frightening horses and endangering necks and limbs as well as property. [Other towns, and cities, have put up with this method of holiday celebrating, but Middletown has not.]

It was waiting for a big conflagration to teach as the necessity for precaution. The darkies had their full share of Christmas. Beginning the evening before they collected in great numbers, taking almost complete possession of the sidewalks, walking up and down the streets singing at the top of their lungs—keeping it up far into the night, and, for aught we know to the contrary, all night; for they were at it when we went to bed, and when we arose in the morning we could still hear them singing away as loud as ever. In their own way they had truly a "Merry Christmas."

Children's Christmas Entertainment.

The usual Christmas entertainment for the scholars of St. Ann's P. E. Sunday School of this town, took place last Monday evening. The children and a large number of their friends assembled in the church at the appointed hour, 5 o'clock, where a short service was held and an interesting address delivered by the Rector. The scholars then formed a procession and entered the Sunday School room, where, instead of the customary tree, they found a "Jacob's Ladder," beautifully trimmed and loaded with good things. The "Ladder" consisted of two small ladders securely fastened together at one end, and placed in the form of the letter A. This was thickly covered with evergreens, and from round to round cords were stretched, on which hung the presents, candies and other ornaments. Candles were also placed on the rounds from top to bottom, all of which, when lighted certainly presented a beautiful sight, and was thought by many persons far superior to the ordinary Christmas tree. The singing of carols, inspection of the "Ladder" and distribution of refreshments to not only the scholars of the school, but all others present, occupied the rest of the evening, and after the benediction, the children returned to their homes, no doubt much pleased with the little treat of 1874.

Advert on the Nanticoke.

We are furnished with the particulars of a case which occurred on our river, one night about two weeks ago, which we give as follows: It seems that the sloop *Helm Jones* of N. J., Capt. Longacre, was lying at anchor off the mouth of the Nanticoke river. Between 1 and 2 o'clock, p. m., three masked men approached in a small boat, with muffled oars, and climbing noiselessly on deck, secured the negro man, who was employed on the sloop, whom they bound and gagged, and then proceeded to the cabin, which they entered. The captain who was in his berth at the time, was aroused by the noise, but before he could get up to dispute their right of entrance, a revolver was placed significantly to his head, and a gruff voice demanded him to keep quiet. He was led from the cabin by the three ruffians, and one producing a strong cord, the three bound him to a board, and came him over board. Fortunately, the knot became loose, and keeping hold of the board, he floated around for some time, when a captain of a passing boat attracted by his cries, picked him up. He told the captain what had transpired, when the latter put his boat about and went back. The thieves had escaped, and the first thing they did was to release the frightened negro. Next, they proceeded to the cabin, where they found everything in a state of chaos, and on making an examination it was discovered that a watch, a valuable gun, a suit of clothes, and \$150 in money had been taken. The captain has strong suspicions as to who the parties were, as he believes one of them to be the same person who was present when he received his \$150 in the morning. The negro said they went away as silently as they came.—*Sandford Citizen*.

An Editor's Mishaps.

The publisher of a certain paper, away down country, made a visit to Sanford, one day during the recent election campaign, and, doubtless feeling happy over his temporary release from the confinement of the editorial sanctum, celebrated the occasion by this made him merry, and at the same time very brave and chivalrous. Now it so happened that a battle royal was taking place between the partners of each other's joys not very far from the place in which our editor was enjoying himself, and the loud shrieks of the distressed female grated harshly on his sym-

phing ear. Shocked that such disgraceful scenes should be enacted in a civilized community in these days of progress the newspaper man repaired to the spot, his noble spirit justly indignant over such a heinous outrage. Entering the house he commanded the man to desist, and undertook to take the woman's part. Lo, the result! The injured and abused woman at once joined in with her husband and together they gave Mr. Editor a most wholesome thrashing, when he fled away from that house he imagined he had been studying astronomy and "seeing stars." His face looked as though he had been flogging with a humble bee's nest. He "ain't" going to have nothing to do with a fight between a man and his wife-again, no-how: a woman can't appreciate kind intentions in such matters."

The General Assembly.

This body will convene in regular session at Dover next Tuesday. The following is a list of the members:—Henry Davis, James H. Ray, L. F. Riddle, Wm. M. Shakespeare, Henry F. Fiddeman, William Spack, J. Turpin Moore, J. C. C. Stockley, John W. Causey, J. S. Moore.

New Castle.—Samuel Hanby, Isaac C. Hyle, Thos. L. J. Baldwin, Thos. Holcomb, Thos. Bird, H. A. Nowland, Wm. P. Biggs.

Kent.—John M. Voshell, Wm. B. Collins, J. Kent, Wm. Webster, D. Learned, James H. Todd, Wm. Broadway, Thos. C. Green.

Sussex.—George W. G. Phillips, John W. Phillips, Robert Lambden, James H. McNeil, Payette Frame, S. P. Houston.

All the members of both houses are Democrats, except one, Mr. Riddle of the Senate, who, with Messrs. Shakespeare, of Kent, and Stockley, of Sussex, was elected in 1872 for four years.

Considerable speculation is rife as to the probable organization of the two houses. It seems to be pretty well conceded that the selection of the speaker of the Senate will be taken from either Kent or Sussex as the holding over Democrats members are from those counties. The speaker of the House will probably be taken from New Castle. Among the most prominent candidates for the position are Messrs. Nowland, of St. George, and Holcomb, of New Castle. Mr. Holcomb we do not know personally, but we have no doubt from his reputation that he will make an efficient officer.

From a long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Nowland, however, we are assured that should the selection fall upon him the House will have a presiding officer who will reflect credit upon the body and do honor to the State.

Maryland and Delaware Ship Canal.

General Brown, Chief Engineer of the work, with R. J. Capron, Esq., of New York City, the President, accompanied by General J. A. Haydon, Consulting Engineer, have just paid a protracted visit to this section, examining the route selected, and the geology of this Peninsula. Mr. Capron returned to New York on Saturday last, leaving the eminent Engineer General Haydon paid a brief visit to Chesapeake City, and then was met by Mr. J. C. Price, Superintendent of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, who very courteously extended the gentlemen an invitation to visit the works of that company on Wednesday, which was highly appreciated and accepted. On Wednesday, Generals Brown and Haydon visited Chesapeake City, where they were cordially met by Mr. Price, Superintendent, his assistant, collectors and several employees, also Mr. H. H. Brady, and after a critical examination of the Persian wheel, used for pumping water into the canal, an invitation was extended to dinner, after which a telegram was sent to Mr. A. C. Price, President of the company, regretting his inability to be present, but placing a strong stamp at the service of the gentlemen to enable them to examine the "deep cut." The party embarked and proceeded up the canal as far as the "seven mile post." The gentlemen carefully examined the construction of the work, the soil, the several approaches, railroad and rail crossings, the character of soil, system of drainage and other points of deep interest to them, after which the party returned to Chesapeake City, which they much gratified not only with the work (which they pronounced stupendous in its day), but also with the very hospitable and courteous manner of their reception and entertainment.

On Thursday Gen. Haydon returned to Baltimore, and Gen. Brown remained to visit the land holders on the route, who in many instances offered their lands, and to determine the exact point, where he will begin the actual construction of this great National work.

We need only say that a work of such magnitude must leave great sums of money on the Peninsula, and attract persons from all portions of the commercial world, to see the first Ship Canal on this continent. It is supposed it will occupy about four years in its construction, giving employment to a large force of workmen and officers. It is hoped that the company will establish the headquarters of their engineers at this place.

The Peninsula Press Association.

This body convened, in adjourned session, in the rooms of the Board of Trade, of Wilmington, on Wednesday afternoon, being called to order at 5 o'clock by the President, R. M. Jenkins, Esq., who returned his thanks for his election to the position, and made a brief address of welcome to all present to the city of Wilmington.

The attendance was very full, 21 papers 34 gentlemen present representing 31 papers and periodicals published on the Peninsula. The names of other gentlemen who were present by business engagements and other causes, were given to the Secretary for enrollment as members, making the number of active members of the newly formed Association to forty-seven.

After two hours spent in the transaction of business pertaining to the organization, at seven o'clock the Association adjourned to the Clayton House, where they sat down to a sumptuous dinner prepared for them by the Board of Trade, who had most kindly taken the visiting editors in charge, as their guests, during their stay in Wilmington. At the conclusion of the dinner, W. Hastings, Esq., President of the Board of Trade, arose and there a few remarks read the first toast of the evening:

"Our guests—the Peninsula Press Association." Responded to by H. M. Jenkins, Esq., President of the Association, and L. Malone of the Salisbury Advertiser.

The second was "The Peninsula—The Garden of the Atlantic States," to which G. W. Cruikshank, of the Cecil Democrat responded.

The third, Wilmington, the metropolis of the Peninsula. Responded to by J. T. Heald, Esq., of Wilmington.

Fourth, "The Press—The Right Hand of Civilization." Response by W. F. Townsend, Esq., of the Sussex Journal.

Fifth, The Eastern Shore—Delaware's Better Half. Response by E. G. Polk, of the Princess Anne True Marylander.

Sixth, "Woman—Though absent from our feast, ever present in our hearts." Just the toast for John O'Brien to respond to, which he did to perfection.

The toasts being concluded H. P. Pickens, Esq., being called on, sang "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," the whole assemblage joining in the chorus.

At half-past seven the company separated after having spent a delightful evening.

On Thursday morning at ten o'clock the editors again assembled in the Board of Trade Rooms for business. The following resolutions were offered, and unanimously approved by the Association.

1st—by W. F. Townsend—"That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the Board of Trade of the City of Wilmington for their generous hospitality and courteous attention."

2d—by J. F. Pennington—"That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the officers of the P. W. & D. R. Co., for the courtesies furnished to the members of the press attending the meeting."

3d—"That the Peninsula Press Association heartily endorse the U. S. Centennial International Exhibition to be held in Philadelphia, in 1876."

The following, offered by T. C. Robson, of the Eastern Star, called for a great deal of discussion and was finally laid aside for future action.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the Association that the proposed ship canal from near the mouth of the Delaware to the Chesapeake Bay would vastly benefit the material prosperity of the Peninsula, and therefore it should receive from this Association all possible encouragement.

At one o'clock the association adjourned till 2.45, and on reassembling went in a body to attend a rehearsal of "The Great Republic" in the Opera House, by invitation of the director, Mr. Frank Colan. After some 30 minutes spent pleasantly here they returned to the Board of Trade rooms, and after a session of two hours adjourned at 6 o'clock to meet at a place to be designated by the executive committee on the second Wednesday of June next.

Letter from Warwick.

One naturally feels defiant at personalities, and the discussion of mental calibre jars as it jostles generalities not flattering to one's abilities. With this feeling the admiration is made that a sadness pervades our genius, and we find would clothe our face with gloom, as we indite this prelude of egotism, but the mendacious audacity of attributing our effusions to those who are non-residents of this village, is a libel on the author, a gross insult to the whole body.

The uproar is sufficient to gratify one's intellectual vanity, yet, as an enthusiastic American and a Warwickite to the "manner born," we love a conspicuous literature, the power of enumerating wonders, cultivating thoughts and men and grand.

The petty tales of domestic estrangement, the vile hash of low gossipers, the stories of "they say" comes not within our province, and "I heard" (without credibility) dwells not in our domicile, therefore, those who fear to behold a stain of darkness struggling for light on their white robes may rest content, for we leave such affairs to those nondescript bipeds whose trenchant tongues and caustic violence, have begotten wonders for the protection of dumb animals.

Christmas passed off with quiet joy, not an item to mar the face of a day though ever festive, should be made to accord measurably with the holy life of Him of whom it is commemorative. To those who profess to seek after divine draughts of spirituality, it was another day distinguished in their history by a renewal of the covenant, and to those of profane life, "who know not what they do," a gala season to drown care by quaffing the "wine when it is red."

We are essentially a spiritual people, and though the influence which rules Katie King is not with us, a subtle power emanating from old defunct John Barleycorn moves among us, for one homeward bound the other night, trolled his carol to the tune of My Mary Ann.

The darks kept their meeting up the whole of the night of the 24th, on Jubilee corner, confident that the robber who stole their corner-stone box, would not repeat his vandal act while the house was ringing with gospel fire. A new dwelling is nearly completed beside the African Church, and ere many weeks will be occupied by Nathaniel the son of Joshua, (Johnson) a fit guardian of the temple.

About one o'clock, Monday the 28th, we witnessed a strange atmospheric phenomenon. Looking towards the west by south, we descried a heavy rain cloud approaching; its advance was extremely rapid, but when it reached us like a pall it swept its darkness over and around us, as earth cloud scented with smoke, apparently without moisture.

A feeling of sadness and unutterable grief pervades our village, caused by the untimely death of a young estimable lady mother, in the very day of her bright bloom and usefulness, Mrs. Jennie Merritt, who had not completed her nineteenth year.

"On earth thou wert all but divine, As thy soul shall immortally be; And our sorrow may cease to repine, When we know that thy God is with thee."

WARWICK, Dec. 30, '74. B

England exports to this country 4,000 barrels of malt liquor per month.

Maryland and Delaware Ship Canal.

MR. EDITOR:—In your issue of the 12th inst. there is an admirably written article from the pen of our old friend Samuel Townsend, in reference to the proposed Ship Canal across the peninsula, as an answer to a letter on the same subject from the Hon. R. Johnson. Though given in his usual happy style, he certainly shows up the picture with great faithfulness. Mr. T. might have added to the list of obstacles in the construction of such a gigantic work that of the mud and sand flats on the Delaware Bay, though last not by any means the least of them: in fact they are the most formidable of them all. From Reedy Island to Cape Henlopen, there exists a line of these shoals or bars running out from the shore line the distance of a mile or more and in no place less than 200 yards, with a depth of water from a foot to ten or twelve feet at mean tide. As early as 1787, the subject of a cross cut canal was talked of and a number of surveys made, the first from Duck creek to the head of Chester river. In 1769 a statement was presented to a committee of Philadelphia merchants, and followed by a survey with remarks upon another route from Bohemia river to the Appoquinimink creek; after this the Elk river route was surveyed. From the surveys made, some thirteen in all, I think the present canal route was adopted as the best and most economical of construction, especially on account of the deep water to be had on the Delaware front. All the company reports I have with maps and surveys, also excerpts in reference to the several surveys, these include the Chester river and Susquehanna river routes, the objections made to these being that the artificial cutting was too long, an increase of 8 and 19 miles respectively over the present canal, and without in any great degree lessening the depth of the deep cutting or prism; thus: Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, length 14 miles, deep cutting 3 miles long and 76 feet deep to water surface; Susquehanna route, length 25 miles, deep cutting 11 miles long and 72 feet deep to water surface; Chester river route, length 35 miles, deep cutting 21 miles long and 62 feet deep to water surface.

From the 5 or 6 surveys made in 1822 by the present company, the most eligible route was that from Back Creek to a point on the Delaware opposite the present Fort Delaware on the "Pea Patch" island.

To insure the uniform depth of 25 feet, as proposed for the new canal, the river must be dredged out for the distance of more than a mile from the shore line and kept open the year through, or, in lieu of this, two enormous piers must be constructed extending out the same distance to protect the artificial water way. The cost of such would be equal to the cost of the present Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, nearly \$4,000,000. Mr. T. has not called attention to the continued yearly trouble and anxiety entailed upon the present Canal Company, in keeping the deep cut in good navigable condition, and for vessels drawing 9 feet of water. The original prism as I have stated being 76 feet to the water surface, add to this 30 feet of "napoli bank," banks formed on each side of earth carried from the original cutting, and add the depth of water in canal 10 feet. We have a total of 116 feet in height from the bottom of canal to top of banks or country surface. The prism of the canal proper is 66 feet at surface, 45 feet at bottom, and in some portions of the deep cut 750 feet across at the top. In order to obtain the 25 feet depth of water, and width of 100 feet water surface it would require as Mr. T. observes, at least 1000 to 1200 feet width, in my opinion very much more, unless protected by heavy wharfing on each side of the canal prism for the whole underlying strata is in a treacherous condition, composed as it is of peat mud and quick sands all down the great back-bone ridge of the States.

Probably no canal in this country has had so many obstacles to contend with as the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. The same topographical difficulties extend down the Peninsula, only becoming more difficult of management the farther you go. There is but one way to meet the question, unless been raised in our sister-city of Baltimore for its seaward bound tonnage, that of making the present canal of such capacity as will pass all the freight in large class steam vessels. It is probable that not more than 100 large steamers go and return between Europe and Baltimore during any one year. As for making a through cut from bay to bay, it cannot be done, there must be one or more locks to any canal between the bays. But why spend \$10,000,000 for a new canal, when the enlargement of the present canal will cost but \$3,000,000? It can be so enlarged without obstruction to navigation of a single day. Construct one lock at the mouth of Back Creek and one at Chesapeake City, also at St. Georges and Delaware City, thus making two tide levels and one summit level. The requisite depth of water can be obtained by raising the present level surface 2 or 3 feet and dredge 10 or 12 feet below the bottom of present canal.

Can it be that capitalists will expend millions for a canal constructed parallel with and adjacent to one now existing, and capable of passing all the tonnage of the entire city of Baltimore and Chesapeake Bay? Fearing that I have put your patience to a severe trial I will apologize and close this lengthy article.

H. V. LESLEY.

Letter from Samuel Townsend.

Report says some men, this last week, were prospecting on that old canal route via Susquehanna and Blackbird, boring I suppose to see if the water and quicksand could be reached at 10 to 12 feet from top surface of the ground. I think they satisfied themselves it was; and I think they have or ought to satisfy themselves, that, as the saying is,

that Jordan will be a hard road to travel before they get down a hundred feet, so as to allow 25 feet of water at all times of the tide, in a through cut, without locks.

It is further stated that the same, or another posse of men, are looking at the old Chesapeake and Delaware Canal with a view to making it, the said Ship Canal. As the new character calls for 25 feet of water, by that route, to get that depth, the Chesapeake Bay would have to be deepened from opposite the mouth of the Susquehanna river up to the mouth of Elk river, up said Elk river to Back creek, and it also deepened to Chesapeake City. Then the old canal would have to be deepened 45 feet, for the Summit level has a ten foot lift. Then take a ten foot fall in the lower level for low water, caused by a heavy northwester, and that makes 20 feet. Now add 25 feet depth, for this Ship Canal, to this 20 feet and you have 45 feet to bottom; or if you allow 8 feet of water now in summit, it will leave 87 feet to be bottomed out below the present bottom of canal. And then, again, in extreme cases, the fall of tide water is 12 feet, which would add 2 feet to the 87, making 89 or 90 feet below the present bottom at Summit level. Then let the tide water once commence to run through, then away goes the shore or bank. A half dozen cities like Baltimore, and added to that a half dozen Baltimore & Ohio Railroads, could not find money enough to make this raging canal, and keep 25 feet of tide water in it and its approaches. A little surveying, a good deal of talk, and probably a few cart loads of dirt may be removed every two years to keep the channel being dredged, in all the present bottom of canal, in all the thousand years towards making a tide water Ship Canal with 25 feet of navigable water in it across this peninsula, on any route they see proper to adopt; for the lower end of the Delaware Bay, the more expensive it will be to make a channel and

